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Participants sit in the "hollow square" during the Sacred Harp Sing Jan. 27 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. (Photo by Jeff Floyd, SWBTS photographs)

## "In Europe, God has granted a new day"

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — God has opened a door of opportunity for Baptists to start English-language churches in the economic crossroads of a rapidly changing Europe, according to John W. Merritt, executive director of the European Baptist Convention.

Merritt, a Mississippian, spoke at a partnership missions reception in Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 22. The Baptist General Convention of Texas currently is involved in a partnership with the English-language churches that constitute the European Baptist Convention.

"God has given us a new day of opportunity," he said, holding up a piece of stone chipped from the Berlin Wall and pointing to the opening of previously closed Eastern European countries.

The months ahead will be an important period of transition for English-speaking European Baptist churches, which originally were created to reach U.S. military personnel and other transplanted Americans, Merritt noted.

"As political and economic changes continue to occur, we are likely to see

a reduction of United States military forces in Europe," he said.

In the future, English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe increasingly will become international and geared more toward reaching business people, Merritt predicted. The European Baptist Convention's goal is to start three new English-language churches annually for the next five years.

"It will take enormous resources, but we believe God has opened a door for us," he said. "English is such a common language of commerce, many people are attracted to churches because they are English-speaking."

"We want to plant English-language churches in the crossroads of Europe and thereby reach people with the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Terry Carter, chairman of the European Baptist Convention partnership missions committee, joined Merritt in noting that English-language European Baptist churches urgently need both pastors and interim pastors.

## Sacred Harp Singers sit in "hollow square"

By Russ Dilday

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Many children Sarah Coates' age spend their Saturdays playing with friends and enjoying a day away from school.

But the 9-year-old from Lancaster, Texas, has found another way to spend her day off. She is the sixth generation of her family to carry on the tradition of Sacred Harp singing.

Sacred Harp is a tradition dating back to the Pilgrims, but had its strongest following in camp meetings, churches, and sacred music schools in the South after the Civil War.

As part of that tradition, more than 125 singers attended the sixth annual Sacred Harp Sing Jan. 27 at Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Southwestern's singing attracted singers and leaders of all ages, and family influences run strong, participants said.

Sarah has attended singings "all of my life," she said. And her aunt, Diane Ross, said the family looks to Sarah to carry on the tradition.

Sarah's father, Bruce Coates and his wife, Beverly, attend six to eight meetings a year. "We go to all of the Texas singings," Coates said.

"Occasionally we go to an Alabama singing. That's like dessert."

Sung without accompaniment, the music is based on four shaped notes representing the scale of fa, sol, la, and mi. This "solmization" of hymns

and songs provided 19th century song leaders a simple method of teaching music by note, according to William Reynolds, professor of church music at Southwestern and organizer of the seminary's sing.

At singings, participants face off in a "hollow square" formation surrounding a central leader. The clock-like dip and rise of the leader's hand regulates each song's time, while tone-setting "keyers" sit at the front of each section, establishing correct pitches for the body of singers.

Singers keep time with their hands or feet.

While many participants consider the singings a hobby, the events are also a worship experience and extension of their faith, singers said.

## Teleconference focuses on "Telling the good news"

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — "Telling the good news" wasn't just something Southern Baptists talked about during the 1990 Home Missions Teleconference. They did it.

During the teleconference, several Southern Baptist telephone operators shared their Christian faith with callers.

Among others, the Feb. 4 teleconference brought calls from two drug addicts, one professed Satan worshiper and one homeless woman.

Betty Jo Lewis, wife of Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, talked with a woman who called to say she lived in her car and needed help.

"She was very bitter about the way her parents had raised her and about

her situation," Mrs. Lewis said. After exploring several options with the woman, Mrs. Lewis told her there is hope for her.

After what Mrs. Lewis described as a long, bitterness-filled conversation, the two prayed together. "I felt she softened," Mrs. Lewis said.

"I just left her with the Lord."

While telephone operators were handling 198 calls that came from 30 states, host Jay Durham of the Home Mission Board and hostess Alanna Davis of New York City interviewed home missionaries.

Telling the good news in the Salt Lake City area is not always easy, said home missionary Kenneth Chadwick. The challenge of Mormonism always is present in his work.

"I don't get into being anti-Mormon," Chadwick said, "I prefer to

be pro-Christ."

Chadwick, like every other missionary interviewed, stressed the importance of prayer.

"If we had all the money in the world and didn't have prayer support, we wouldn't make it," he said.

Franklin Beam, a home missionary in southern Florida, is a church extension consultant for five Baptist associations. "My personal goal is to start 1,000 churches in my lifetime," he said. "I'd rather start 1,000 churches than be pastor of a church with 1,000 members."

Beam said he hopes to accomplish his goal by helping others in the area as new churches are started. Because the territory Beam covers is so vast, he often has to be away from home and his three young children.

"Please pray for my family," he asked

viewers. "My children don't always understand why I can't be there for their ballgames and ballet lessons." He also asked viewers to pray specifically for his wife, Susan, because she often is left alone to take care of the children.

Another missionary asked viewers to pray for his family. Randy Foster who works in resort ministries in Jackson Hole, Wyo., asked viewers to remember in prayer his four sons, ages 7, 10, 14 and 17.

Carol Reese, a home missionary working in Cook County Hospital in Chicago, explained how she faces illness and death every day.

Telling the good news to patients of the hospital — many of whom have AIDS — is her job. "Each one of us is worth taking time to listen to, to love, to hold. That's the crux of the gospel

message," she said.

Another prayer request came from Don Ledbetter, home missionary and director of Baptist evangelism in Nevada. He asked viewers to pray for 1,000 people to become Christians and be baptized during upcoming simultaneous revivals in his state.

Tim Park, language missionary in Maryland and Delaware, asked viewers to pray for the strength and resources to start five new ethnic congregations in his area this year.

But home missionaries are not the only ones who can start churches, HMB President Larry Lewis said.

"No matter how large or how small, any church can and should be involved in starting a church," he said. He cited the need for churches in the South to help sponsor or co-sponsor churches in the North.



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The home missions needs

I have a cousin who is a chaplain for the Bexar County jail in San Antonio, Texas. He receives a part of his pay from the Home Mission Board. There is no measuring what the impact of his ministry is. A part of his salary comes out of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

A former education director at my church is pastor of the church in Glasgow, Montana. He receives a part of his salary from the Home Mission Board. His is the only church for many miles in any direction. He is making a definite impact on that small city. A part of his salary comes out of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

In both cases, there is a ministry going on that is made possible or more effective because of the Annie Armstrong Offering. The same could be said for circumstances all over the nation. Through the offering we are sending missionaries into the jungles of the nation's huge inner cities. Through the offering we are sending missionaries to the sparsely settled west where it would be difficult to maintain a church program without substantial

help. Through the offering there are workers in Mississippi to help us carry out missions efforts.

The offering means missions and that is what it is used for.

Mississippi puts a lot more into the Annie Armstrong offering than it gets back in support money. It has to be that way. In the really tough areas of the nation, there has to be more money going into the state from the Home Mission Board than the state is putting back into the work.

So the nation needs Mississippi's money. Through it we are helping to provide the ministry in the inner cities and on the western plains and along the western coast and across the northern states.

The Home Mission Board does not force itself on anyone, and in each case the missions workers are employed jointly by the state conventions and the Home Mission Board. That has to be the case also, for the Home Mission Board will not go into a state with one of its programs unless the state is willing for it to be done and approves the situation by electing the missionary to the position.

The goal for the nation for 1990 is \$41 million. The Annie Armstrong Offering is every bit as important as is the Lottie Moon Offering, for in each case the situation involves the souls of people. Mississippi should do its part in helping to reach those people all over the nation who are not going to be reached unless we send missionaries to them.

March 4 to 11 is the time for the Home Missions Week of Prayer and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. Both are highly important. One suspects, however, that if the prayer is entered into with sincerity, the money will be forthcoming.

We must support these missions efforts in our own country. The motto for this year is "I Will Tell the Good News." That is what we will be doing when we pray for missions efforts in our homeland and when we contribute our money to make those efforts possible.

We cannot afford to do less than our best in either the prayers or the offerings.



## Week of Prayer for Home Missions

March 4-11, 1990

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

National Goal:  
\$41 million

## Guest opinion . . .

### "Pray for our mission"

By Meme Drumwright and  
H. W. Perry Jr.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — We live on a home mission field. Our apartment window near the top of a high-rise building gives us a bird's-eye view of our mission field. This is not the mission field we pictured as children growing up in our missions-minded churches down South. It is Cambridge, Mass.

Our view includes the shimmering Charles River, which winds its way through the cupolas and spires of Harvard University. Students from many universities are rowing up and down the river in the morning mist, preparing for competition.

Our view also includes what our neighbors call an eyesore. On the corner across the street from our building are two big subway vents that blow hot air continually. Huddled around these vents are eight bedraggled people who have created a tent-like structure with blankets. These are the hard-core homeless; and the vents are their "territory," which they stand ready to protect from others who want to share in the warmth. It is a view and a mission field of stark contrasts.

Part of the view radiates promise and potential. More than 270,000 students — 40,000 of whom are international students — populate our mission field as they study in the 66 colleges and universities in the Boston area. It is estimated that 20 percent of the future leaders of third world nations, some of whom may be our students, are living and studying on the mission field.

Three Southern Baptist campus ministers — two of whom raise their own support — and eight volunteers work among these students. Baptist student groups meet regularly on nine area campuses, including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University, Boston College, and Tufts University. Through these campus ministers and volunteers, Southern Baptists have an unparalleled opportunity to influence future leaders of business and government the world over. Pray for these campus ministers and volunteers as they do their important work.

In the midst of such hope is the despair of homeless people. Here, also, there is potential and promise, although often it goes unrealized. There are roughly 3,000 individuals living on the streets in the Boston area. The fastest-growing segment of the homeless population is families.

Presently, 3,500 families are on the waiting list of the Cambridge Housing Authority. At the current rate of 150 vacancies a year, it will be the year 2012 before the most recent additions to the list receive housing. Meanwhile, three and four families crowd into a single-family dwelling or vie for the 200 shelter units for families in the Boston area.

Our view also includes the community in which a small Southern Baptist church, the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Cambridge, is nestled. This is our church. It is primarily a student church, drawing both undergraduate and graduate students from Harvard, MIT, Tufts, and Boston universities. Some of the students

grew up in Southern Baptist churches. Others ask, "Who is Annie Armstrong?" and "Where is she living now?" The most important concept, however, is that it is a church where these two communities — the students and the homeless — come together.

The church is a place where homeless individuals and others in need can come on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a free meal that is served by church members along with a friendly chat. Those in need are referred to as "guests" and are treated as such by the volunteer hosts.

Some guests take hot showers, for this is the only place in Cambridge that is open for showers on weekends. Others visit the clothes closet to look for a heavy coat, a warm sweater, or a blanket to ward off the cold. A few will attend the worship service on Sunday; but most will only be able to experience God's love on Saturdays as they eat, visit, shower, and "shop."

Our church is one of 48 Southern Baptist congregations in the Boston area. Approximately 70 people attend our church; and 170 more attend one of its three mission churches — Brazilian, Haitian, and African congregations. The Brazilian and Haitian congregations are two of the 23 Southern Baptist congregations in the Boston area that worship in a language other than English.

Without the Home Mission Board, there would be no Southern Baptist Church in Cambridge. Our church is not self-supporting. It never has been. It may never be. We, a small group of those who primarily are students, probably will never be known by large

By Herschel H. Hobbs  
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." — Romans 3:23

Such a little word! But, oh, the havoc it has wrought! Someone noted that the middle letter in "sin" is "i." And the larger the "i," the greater the sin. "Sin" is selfishness, centering one's will in self rather than in God.

In the Bible the basic words for sin are *hata* (Hebrew) and *hamartano* (Greek). Both mean to miss the

numbers on our membership rolls or balance sheets; but we are not discouraged. A banner at the front of our church proclaims, "We shall be known by our love." This is our hope and our goal.

We urge you to pray for our mission field and its people. We also urge you to give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions so that the work on our mission field and others like it may continue to prosper and grow. We urge you to participate in missions on the home mission field where you live. When we can be known by our love, it is indeed good news. May we all both live and tell the good news.

—Meme Drumwright and  
H. W. Perry Jr.

Meme Drumwright and H. W. Perry Jr., are both assistant professors at Harvard University. She teaches marketing, and he teaches government. Both are originally from Texas. They met at Harvard and were married last May.

## Sin

mark, like a target. The target is the character and will of God. You may miss it by an inch or by a mile. But in both cases you miss it.

We weigh or measure sin/sins. One man violates God's will and commits murder. Another does so and lies. We call one a murderer and the other a liar. God says that two men violated his will.

In Romans 3:23 Paul pictures archers shooting at a target. One misses due to bad aim. He has a wrong concept of God's character and will. So he shoots wide of the target. The other has a true concept of God's character and will. But he determines to achieve such in his own power. He takes dead aim at the bull's eye. But the bowstring of his self-will is too weak to hurl the arrow to the target. So it falls to the ground short of the target. It may fall just short of it or half-way to it. In both cases it falls or comes "short of the glory of God." Apparently this is what Paul had in mind.

In Romans 10:2-3 the Jews missed the target by trying to achieve their own righteousness, and failed to achieve the righteousness of God which is in Christ Jesus.

It is because of the weakness of our bowstring that salvation must be by grace through faith. There is no other way by which to hit the target of God's character and will.

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Silence isn't always golden — sometimes it's just plain yellow. — (C.H.M.)

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# The Baptist Record

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## BSSB trustees affirm healing, reconciliation

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board affirmed a spirit of reconciliation and healing in their Feb. 5-7 meeting in Nashville and pledged to work with the administration in carrying out the tasks of the denomination's church programs and publishing agency.

A motion of support for President Lloyd Elder and a motion pledging joint efforts by the trustees and administration to "fulfillment of the great tasks entrusted to us by the people called Southern Baptists" were passed without opposition.

The meeting was the first gathering of the full board of trustees since August 1989 when, during a session at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, a motion to fire Elder was made and debated before being withdrawn.

Robert Cheek, interim pastor of North Hardin Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas, noted six months had passed since the Glorieta meeting and said the time is right for trustees to let Elder "know we love him, we will pray for him and give him our heartfelt affirmation."

Rick Forrester, an insurance company office manager from Norcross, Ga., urged support for Cheek's motion: "Our president does need to know we are committed to working together. The press needs to hear and see that. Our constituency needs to hear and see that."

Tommy Taylor, pastor of London Bridge Baptist Church of Virginia Beach, Va., presented a statement adopted by trustees describing the meeting as "marked by a spirit of reconciliation and healing."

The motion expressed appreciation for an informal discussion session on the role and responsibility of trustees convened by Warren Hultgren, chair-

man of trustees and pastor of First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla.

The session included a presentation by James P. Guenther, a Nashville attorney and general counsel to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Guenther described the ideal relationship between the president and trustees of a Southern Baptist agency as a partnership in which both are strong. He urged humility, commitment to the mission of the institution and finding proper balance between "being assertive and being restrained."

Elder said the presentation and dialogue "opened lines of communication and strengthened the work of the Sunday School Board . . . Southern Baptists are diverse, and Sunday School Board trustees are diverse. That can be our greatest strength."

Hultgren said the session made trustees "aware not only of their responsibility to the Southern Baptist Convention but also of their obligations and accountability to the Sunday School Board and its administration."

In reporting on development of an instrument for the annual performance evaluation of the president by the general administration committee, Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, said trustees should turn from discussions about the president to focus on the work of the board.

"We are part of a flat denomination," said Young. "Our challenge is tremendous. We have an excellent president. Let's get off the side tracks and get on with the kingdom."

A motion by Gene Swinson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga., called for the 90-member board of trustees to meet the week after the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June for an informal, non-business session

to focus on building relationships and setting goals. The motion was referred to the general administration committee.

In other business, trustees authorized an average price increase of 5.8 percent for church literature, effective April 1991. Sunday school literature will increase an additional 4.4 percent in October 1991 with the introduction of improvements involving increased pages for Bible content, art and teaching procedures and more color, for an average price increase of 7 percent to 7.5 percent for the 1991 calendar year.

The pricing recommendation stated the commitment of the board to provide "the finest possible literature for Southern Baptist churches at least 25 percent below the prices of the nearest major competitor." A comparative study showed a quarterly literature order for a church of 200 would cost \$389 if purchased from the Sunday School Board, compared to \$495, \$518, \$603 and \$1,565 from four other publishers.

In a financial report for October-December 1989, E.V. King, vice president for business and finance, said total revenue from operations was \$42 million, 2.3 percent below budget but 4.8 percent above 1988. Church literature sales of \$18.8 million were 1.2 percent above budget and 7.2 percent above 1988. Genevox Music sales of \$320,000 were 8.5 percent above budget and 29 percent above 1988.

The board operates completely through sales of products and services and does not receive Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget funds.

The administration was asked to study the possibility of producing an abstinence-based sex education curriculum for use in schools, churches and homes and report back to trustees

(Continued on page 4)

## McCracken, Sumner to lead student team to Russia

By Tim Nicholas

Weaver McCracken and John Sumner will be leading a group of 10 Baptist college students from Mississippi to the Soviet Union this summer. McCracken is associate director of student work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Sumner is Baptist Student Union director for Jones County Community College.

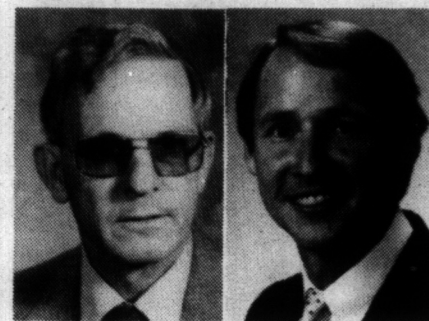
The group will be traveling to Russia, July 22-Aug. 9. McCracken will be taking a short trip there in early March to make plans for the students' work this summer. The Mississippi student team will be preceded by teams from Texas, Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky.

The special project team will live in Russian homes and participate in a renovation project on a Baptist church in Leningrad.

The church, Temple of the Gospel, built around the turn of the century, was an Old Believer's Church, according to materials given to McCracken. It was one of the oldest branches of the Russian Orthodox church. Closed as a church in 1933, the building was used periodically as a factory until last year. Now the Baptists have been given clear title to the property.

Concerning the work the students will be doing, McCracken said, "My impression is a lot of clean up and clearing out and demolition type of work."

He said that having the students



Sumner

McCracken

stay in the homes of Soviet citizens is unheard of in the past.

There will be opportunities for singing, witnessing, and preaching for the students, as well as the building of cross-cultural friendships with young people from the Soviet Union.

Baptist Press reported that the Soviet Baptists said the project will mark the first time outsiders have been allowed to work with them on such a basis.

Cost of the trip will be about \$1,700 per student. McCracken said he hopes the student ministries work in Mississippi will be able to supplement the cost.

These student appointments, which are being made now, are in addition to the regular summer missions program which is raising \$100,000 for student summer work by Mississippi students.

## New school to boost Iranian evangelism

By Mike Creswell

LONDON (BP) — A school opening in London in February with partial financing from Southern Baptists will train Iranian Christians to evangelize Iranians all over the world.

The Iranian Bible Training Center received \$25,000 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Further help is under consideration, said Dale Thorne, director of Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa.

Eight Iranian students — six from Iran and two from England — have been accepted into the first class. Four other students, including two from Turkey and one living in Denmark, are awaiting visas to enter England.

A two-year study program will give them a Bible-based education with special evangelism skills tailored to the needs and culture of Iranians. For every two months in class, students will spend a month ministering among Iranians outside Iran, said Samuel Yeghnazar, school director.

Plans call for the students to spend some out-of-class time in places such as Turkey or Pakistan, Yeghnazar said. After completing their studies, they will work in Iran or areas where Iranian refugees live, he said.

Teachers will include some Southern Baptist missionaries, seminary and Bible school professors from the United States, Europe and elsewhere, and other evangelicals experienced in Iranian or Middle Eastern culture. Some teachers will come from Iran. Most will teach three-week sessions at their own expense, living in school apartments alongside the students.

Yeghnazar, 45, a native of Iran, has

an Armenian Christian background.

In addition to his pastoral duties and starting the new school, Yeghnazar spends hours communicating by telephone and correspondence with Iranian Christians around the world. He often sends Bibles or Christian literature in Persian — or Farsi —, the principal language of Iran.

"Last month I received letters from Iranians in Korea, Bangladesh, Greece, the Dominican Republic and other countries," he said. "These are new believers. I never thought an Iranian would come to the Lord in Moscow, but I have sent Persian-language literature there. I also hear periodically from Iranian believers in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Spain, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Cyprus, Turkey, Pakistan, India, the prisons of Thailand and the Philippines, plus quite a few places in the United States, Canada, Australia and Latin America."

Despite the image of intolerance Iran has, "Iranian Christians (still have) much more liberty in Iran than in all Arab countries I know."

Iran had "quite a place" in the Bible, Yeghnazar reminded Christians. Some Old Testament kings, such as Cyrus and Darius, were from Iran, and prophets such as Ezra, Daniel and Nehemiah served in the courts of Iranian kings.

Some words in the Bible, such as angel, paradise and Satan, have Persian origins, he said. Iranians, then called Parthians, also were present on the day of Pentecost described in Acts 2.

## BSSB revises organization

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE (BP) — Personnel assignments and a revised organization structure to improve service by the Sunday School Board to Southern Baptists were approved by board trustees during their semiannual meeting in Nashville Feb. 5-7.

Fourteen recommendations were approved by trustees related to the organization of the agency, and 10 personnel recommendations from the administration were approved.

Board President Lloyd Elder made the recommendations to trustees as the second phase of an organization/structure study. The first phase was approved by trustees in August 1989.

Elder said the new organization is

designed to focus the corporate strategy of the board to more effectively meet the needs of customers in local churches and retail and wholesale customers.

Six recommendations related to the reorganization were in the office of general publishing. The position of publishing analysis director was created, and the present position of Broadman division director was deleted.

Dessel Aderholt, 60, formerly director of the Broadman division, was reassigned to the executive staff position.

The Genevox music department and the position of director of that department were deleted to provide

for reassignment of production and marketing components, and related personnel. Fes Robertson, 55, former director of the Genevox music department, was reassigned as manager of the new Genevox music group in the office of general publishing.

Trustees also approved a recommendation for the organization of the distribution services division, directed by Andy Dodson. This division will include the customer service coordination section, the customer service section-wholesale, customer service section-retail, inventory management distribution systems section, and the physical distribution group.



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# Bush addresses religious broadcasters

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — Recent changes in Eastern Europe and Panama serve as a tribute to the American concept of freedom, President Bush told the nation during his first State of the Union address.

"Remarkable events, events that fulfill the long-held hopes of the American people," he said. "Events that validate the longstanding goals of American policy, a policy based on a single, shining policy: the cause of freedom."

"America — not just the nation — but an idea, alive in the minds of people everywhere. As this new world takes shape, America stands at the center of a widening circle of freedom — today, tomorrow and into the next century."

The President said the challenge for America is to take its democratic system — which he called "second to none" — and make it better. Building a better America, he said, means increasing jobs, expanding child care, improving the environment,

strengthening the economy, providing equal opportunities, combating homelessness, improving schools and fighting drugs.

Previewing themes contained in his State of the Union address, Bush earlier in the week told participants at the National Religious Broadcasters annual convention he will endorse policies that reflect the rights that "form the essence of America and that to other nations have become the message of America."

The President voiced his support for:

- Helping parents obtain the best child care for their children. "But I want to ensure that parents, not bureaucrats, are the ones who decide how to care for these children," he said. "I will not see the option of religious-based child care restricted or eliminated."

- Enhancing and supporting the nation's schools.

- Encouraging adoption, not abor-

tion. "I support the sanctity of life," he told the group.

- Passing a constitutional amendment "restoring voluntary (school) prayer."

Before citing examples of expanding religious freedom around the world, Bush told the religious broadcasters: "There is no denying that America is a religious nation. And sure, differences exist over sect and theology. And yet, you know that what unites us eclipses what divides us. For we believe that political values without moral values — a moral underpinning — cannot sustain a people."

"I speak of the qualities of tolerance and decency, courage and responsibility and, of course, faith. Values which remind us that while God can live without man, man cannot live without God."

In concluding his State of the Union address, the President asked for the help of all Americans.

"Let me start with my own generation — the grandparents out there," he said. "You are our living link to the past. Tell your grandchildren the story of struggles waged, at home and abroad, of sacrifices freely made for freedom's sake. And tell them your own story as well, because every American has a story to tell."

"And parents, your children look to you for direction and guidance. Tell them of faith and family. Tell them we are one nation under God. Teach them that of all the many gifts they can receive, liberty is their most precious legacy. And of all the gifts they can give, the greatest, the greatest, is helping others."

"And to the children and young people out there tonight: With you rests our hope, all that America will mean in the years and decades ahead. Fix your vision on a new century — your century. On dreams we cannot see. On the destiny that is yours and yours alone."

## Washburn presents Flake book to begin Sunday school display

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE — The handwritten outline for the now-famous Flake's Formula for church growth is penned in the pages of a book that is to be the beginning of a historical display highlighting the focus of Sunday School work in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's hundred-year history.

A. V. Washburn, retired secretary of the Sunday School department, presented the leatherbound book to Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder and discussed ideas for a display at the board.

The book, *The New Convention Normal Manual for Sunday School Workers*, had belonged to Arthur Flake, who headed the board's Sunday School department in the 1920s. Notes in Flake's elegant handwriting indicate the basis of another book which Flake wrote in 1921, *The Standard Sunday School*.

In that book, Flake introduced his formula for growing a church through the Sunday School. Flake's five-point plan directed that churches should locate prospects, provide space, enlist workers, train workers, and go after the people.

That formula was the skeleton on which modern Sunday School work is built, said Washburn who served as director of the Sunday School department from 1957 to 1977.

"It's difficult to get away from those basics. You can say it in other ways but what we are doing today is based on Flake's Formula," Washburn said.

Other handwritten notes include illustrations Flake used as he traveled throughout the country talking about Southern Baptist Sunday School work.

Flake became one of the board's first Sunday School field workers in 1909. He left the board briefly and returned in 1920 as head of the newly formed department of Sunday School administration.

Flake developed the use of clinics, enlargement periodicals including *The Sunday School Builders*, and a strong study course program before retiring in 1937.

Flake's personal copy of the book that was referred to as the Sunday School manual is a historical book, Elder said. Flake was at the forefront



NASHVILLE — Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder, left, and A. V. Washburn, board retiree, look over the handwritten notes of Arthur Flake in Flake's copy of the Sunday School manual. Washburn presented the book to Elder as the beginnings of a historical display on SBC Sunday School work to be housed at the board. Photo by Jim Veneman.

of a succession of Sunday School leaders that has included Washburn and Harry Piland, current Sunday School division director.

"This is timely as we are on the edge of our second century. The Sunday School Board started (in 1891) with Sunday School work and through the decades our focus has been on Sunday School work," Elder said.

While the Flake book is the beginning of a Sunday School history display, the board would like to have additional items, said Gary Cook, vice president for church programs and services.

Washburn, who had a 44-year tenure at the Sunday School Board, said he has realized in the last few years that he needed to see that the Flake book had a home.

The book was given to Washburn by J. P. Edmunds when Washburn was elected director of the Sunday School

department in 1957. Edmunds was manager of the Sunday School administration department which Flake had started.

Washburn also provided several original photographs that will be added to the archives collection.

I discovered at an early age that most of the differences between average people and great people can be explained in three words — "and then some."

The top people did what was expected of them, and then some. They were considerate and thoughtful of others, and then some. They met their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely and then some. They were good friends to their friends, and then some. They could be counted on in an emergency, and then some. — James E. Byrnes

## BSSB trustees affirm healing, reconciliation

(Continued from page 3)

at their August 1990 meeting. Materials for use in churches and homes currently are under development by the board's family ministry department.

Trustees authorized beginning a monthly newsletter for youth ministers in April 1990 and approved addition of a four-color cover for "Baptist Adults," a discipleship training periodical.

Also approved was a recommendation that the Sunday School Board communicate to the Southern Baptist Committee on Nominations that a person may be nominated as a local trustee who lives in the state of Tennessee or within a radius of 250 miles of Nashville and in a state contiguous to Tennessee. The present guideline specifies 150 miles.

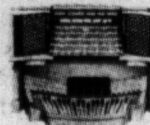
Trustees heard a progress report on "The New American Commentary," learning that manuscripts for two volumes have been completed by the writers.

An outside marketing firm has been employed and a marketing plan developed. The first volumes will be released in June 1991.

Elected as trustee officers were Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Clearwater, Fla., chairman; Gene Mims, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cleveland, Tenn., vice chairman and chairman of the executive committee; and J.B. Miller, pastor of Pleasant Heights Baptist Church of Columbia, Tenn., recording secretary.

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# Legacy of Annie Armstrong supports missions in Nevada

By Joe Westbury

RENO, Nev.—When Don Ledbetter moved to Nevada to help start a mission in 1965, he didn't know the legacy of Annie Armstrong would follow close behind.

Although their ministries are separated by more than 100 years, Ledbetter and Armstrong both took steps of faith in response to what they

considered to be God's call.

Armstrong was the first national executive of Woman's Missionary Union, holding that office without pay for 18 years. Because of her influence in missions, Southern Baptists named their annual home missions offering for her.

That offering made a difference for Ledbetter when he made a financial sacrifice to start a Southern Baptist mission in Elko, Nev.

"I went there from Texas with no salary, and I painted houses so I would have an income," Ledbetter said. "It wasn't until a year later that I started receiving a small stipend from the Home Mission Board to help subsidize my expenses."

That \$100-a-month stipend, then called Church Pastoral Assistance, was funded in part by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.



Home missionary Don Ledbetter (left), as director of evangelism for Nevada, helps pastors and churches as they try to reach the unchurched within the state. His role sometimes is that of encourager to pastors such as Robert Hogner (right) of Walker River Baptist Church in Schurz, Nev. Ledbetter's work is funded by gifts through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In numerous instances across Nevada, the offering has made the difference between whether or not a mission would be started, said Ledbetter, who is now director of evangelism for the Nevada Baptist Convention.

"We couldn't have ever made it without Annie and the Home Mission Board's church loan department," he said as he looked back on the early days of Calvary Baptist Church in Elko.

When he first arrived on the church field, the congregation numbered 10 members—four from

his family. When he left almost 18 years later, the church was averaging 225 in Sunday School and had grown into one of the strongest congregations in Nevada.

Ledbetter baptized 95 percent of the congregation, including John Randolph and his wife, Barbara. Today Randolph is the church's pastor.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is a life-or-death issue for Nevada Baptists because the state remains a new-work area for Southern Baptists, Ledbetter said. Since the state convention is only 12 years old, it continues to receive a majority of its funding from the Home Mission Board.

"Annie Armstrong is our livelihood as far as the state convention is concerned. For every \$12 we budget, the Home Mission Board sends \$88 through Annie Armstrong. Cooperative Program and other funds Southern Baptists have provided," he explained.

"When I came to Nevada 24 years ago, we had 40 churches and missions. Now, largely due to the Annie Armstrong offering, we have about 120 throughout the state," he said.

Ledbetter helps churches develop an overall evangelism strategy that motivates congregations



Helping the more than 120 churches and missions in the state of Nevada plan effective evangelism strategies keeps home missionary Don Ledbetter (right) busy. Being a pilot enables Ledbetter to cover the vast territory of Nevada quicker when visiting pastors like Junior Sammons (left) of First Baptist Church, Sun Valley.

## Don Ledbetter

John Randolph didn't think he needed organized religion before he walked into his first Southern Baptist revival meeting nearly 15 years ago.

Randolph had privately accepted Christ in his study through reading the Bible, but he didn't want to be associated with the hypocrisy that he saw in the lives of church members.

That attitude changed when he became friends with Don Ledbetter, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Elko, Nev., where the revival was held. Ledbetter is a home missionary supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

"Don was the first pastor I ever really knew. I thought pastors were wimpy and out of touch with reality, were not human, and were always trying to get you to do something you didn't want to do," Randolph said.

"I'm a studious kind of guy and knew my Bible, and Don's consistent exposition of Scripture impressed me. Until then, my goal in life was to enjoy life to the fullest, and when it got too bad, I would commit suicide."

The California native is grateful today that Ledbetter was there when he and his wife, Barbara, were searching for a deeper faith. They both made public decisions during that revival.



"Don taught me you can be human and Christian at the same time. He taught me grace—that you can really love another individual. He was open and honest with his emotions and was the first man I ever saw shed genuine tears of joy and grief," Randolph said.

"As I began to feel a call to the ministry,

Don told me of his own struggles and pain in accepting his call. I saw qualities in him I wanted to emulate because I had never been around a man who was so honest," he said.

Today, thanks to Ledbetter's ministry and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Randolph is pastor of that same church, which is one of the fastest-growing congregations in the state.

"This is a mean town with casinos and five houses of prostitution," Randolph said. "It took a man like Don to make a difference."

## Prayer requests

- Pray for God's anointing on the Here's Hope simultaneous revivals scheduled for Nevada March 18-April 8.
- Pray for the Calvary Baptist Church in Elko as they begin a building program. Pray that God will provide the resources to fund the building. New facilities will double the space of the church. The church needs additional space in order to minister to a community which is growing rapidly.
- Pray that God will provide an experienced, evangelistic pastor to begin a new church in the McQueen area of Reno.
- Pray that God will send pastors for the missions and churches in Nevada currently without pastors. About one-tenth of the convention's missions and churches do not have a pastor.
- Pray that the small churches in the Northeast and Lahonton associations will be able to participate in statewide simultaneous revivals. Many of the churches are strapped financially. Ask God to provide revival teams for them.

to greater missions involvement.

"We now go beyond the regular one or two revivals a year to include a variety of witnessing and discipling programs to equip the laity to share their faith," he said.

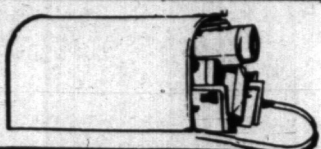
As Southern Baptists found during their door-to-door witnessing emphasis at the 1989 annual convention in Las Vegas, "Residents of Nevada are very receptive to the gospel—their main concern is to see if you are real or not, if you believe and practice what you preach," Ledbetter said.

"Our history shows that our potential for growth remains solid. We're one of the fastest-growing states by population due to the influx of industry and the mining boom," he said.

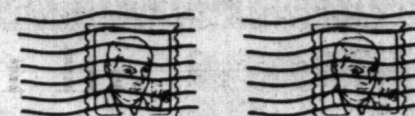
"The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is the key to the growth of the Nevada convention."

**WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR HOME MISSIONS**  
March 4-11, 1990  
**ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING**  
National goal: \$41 million





# Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

## Thanks for prayers

Editor:  
I would like to thank all our Christian friends and church families throughout the state for their prayers, calls, cards, and loving concern during the recent illness of our son. We are thrilled to share that our prayers have been answered, and Nathan is doing great. Please continue to pray for him as he continues to improve and regain his health.

We cannot adequately express our gratitude to all of you and especially to our First Baptist Church of Lyman family. I have never seen a church family express love and concern for their pastor and his family as the Lyman church has shown us. So many things were done to help us in our time of need. Special prayer meetings were held. Love offerings were taken to help with doctor and hospital costs. Food was delivered to our home; and we received more gifts, cards, and visits than we could number.

We were made to feel loved. Even though we were going through a critical time in our son's life, we were blessed greatly as we received the strength from the many prayers and saw the love expressed by so many fellow Christians.

On behalf of Nathan, again we express our thanks and deepest gratitude to our church family and to all our Christian friends. May God richly bless you as you have blessed us.

Sincerely,  
Larry Hill, pastor  
First Baptist Church of Lyman

## Thanks for communication

Editor:  
Thank you for your communication regarding the matter of education reform and the lottery. It is my strong conviction that we can fund education in a more stable manner than is being proposed by the governor. My opinion is that we can have education reform and fund it through traditional revenue sources.

From the information which I have obtained, it is clear to me that research indicates that a lottery is not a suitable financial tool for supporting state services. When I was elected, I pledged to myself that I would try to do three things. First, I wanted to represent my constituency. Second, I hoped to be able to use my limited intellectual capabilities to make sound decisions. Third, I wanted to strive to make principled choices.

I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

Your friend,  
Cy Hart Rosenblatt  
State senator  
Jackson

## Ministry of poems

Editor:  
I would like to thank the people who wrote the poetry on the Scrapbook page in the January 4 edition of the Baptist Record. The poems meant a lot to me.

Mrs. Floy Dennison  
McComb

## The Guideposts ad

Editor:  
I beg to disagree with those who downgrade the Guideposts magazine. I have read every copy of this magazine and have become better able to cope with problems.

Why look at the dark side of life?

Your paper has much good reading.

Claire Bell Kennon  
Picayune

## Support for public schools

Editor:  
I have before me articles published in your paper 11/30/89 and 11/23/89. The headline on one says, "Causey calls preachers back to the Bible"; another "MBC adopts resolutions," and No. 1 opposing lottery and supporting and seeking... "ways to raise legitimate revenue for the purpose of developing and effective educational system for our beloved state." Interesting!

In a survey I received recently, one of the questions was, "Should Americans demand stricter educational standards and a 'return to basics' in education?" There were three choices, YES, NO, UNDECIDED.

Now I expect most so-called conservative Americans would answer yes, but my standard answer is Americans should demand that government get out of education. (And the sooner the better). Education is not the business of government. It is the business of parents and other educators, and it should be more obvious to more people all of the time.

Our first President, George Washington, said: "Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

It's true, our founding fathers wanted limitation placed upon government, so that we the people could govern ourselves under God. Of course that's the key! As William Penn said: "Men who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants."

In the so-called Bible belt of the South, I am at a loss to understand how professing Christians can support godless government schools. I am amazed that the Christians who profess to believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, can then accept and pay to support government schools that teach the "theory of evolution" rather than the Genesis record of creation.

As morality breaks down, responsibility breaks down; and, as our founding fathers understood well: without responsibility, there is no such thing as liberty.

Bob Wells  
Hazlehurst

In 11 years of public school, from 1930 to 1941, I never heard the story of creation, but I feel that I received a good education. Neither did I hear the theory of evolution. We didn't pray, and we didn't read the Bible. That was done at home and at church. I feel that if the theory of evolution is to be presented, then so should the theory of creation. If creation is not to be presented, then the whole concept should be left alone. My preference is the latter. — Editor

## The Guidepost ad

Editor:  
I am writing because I was very concerned to see the ad for Guideposts magazine in the January 11 issue of the Baptist Record.

I do not agree with Norman Vincent Peale concerning his Power of Positive Thinking. He talked about this on the Donahue Show, saying he was a born-again Christian. But he said, "You don't have to go through the plan of salvation to be saved" — that all you have to do is Think Positive. This was what Donahue and others like him wanted to hear. They cheered Norman Vincent Peale when he made this statement; and Donahue said, "Man, am I glad to hear you say that! Now all we have to do is Think Positive."

I am a firm believer in every word of the Bible, and my Bible says that to accept the Lord we have to repent of our sins, and then make that public profession of our faith.

In John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Acts 16:31, "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Now, if I read all the verses in the Bible on the plan of salvation, nowhere will I find, "All you have to do is Think Positive."

I thank the Lord for giving me the intelligence and the wisdom to interpret the Bible, and for giving me the ability to tell whom I can follow and whom I can't follow.

So therefore I do not feel that anything concerning the Guidepost magazine should be in our Baptist Record.

Bobby Adcock  
Louisville

I have not found anyone who reads Guidepost who remembers ever seeing anything of Norman Vincent Peale's theology mentioned in the publication. If indeed it is not there, then what it is and what he has said on television, as much as we might disagree with him, has no effect on the publication. I doubt seriously that he even knows what goes in the publication. — Editor

## The lottery

Editor:  
Thank you for your kind letter concerning my recent votes against the lottery. It means so much to me that you took time to write.

I share your opinion that a lottery would be detrimental to our state, and I do not believe it is the way to raise funds for public schools at the state level. Improving education is very important to the future of our children and our grandchildren. I will continue to work to ensure that much needed education reforms are enacted and funded through responsible means.

Your support and encouragement are very important to me, and I hope you will continue to keep in touch. Please feel free to call on me whenever I may be of service.

Robert H. 'Rob' Smith  
State senator

## My church and I

Editor:  
I do NOT have to "go to church." I can stay home and listen to a radio preacher or see on television my favorite church program. But if I do NOT go to church I FEEL SOMETHING IS MISSING: I have had NO CONTACT with church-going and/or Christian people! There has been no fellowship to share and enjoy with other Christians.

When I go to my church, upon arrival I receive a friendly handshake by a door greeter, who makes me feel "welcome."

As I go inside the God-dedicated sanctuary, I feel a little closer to my Lord. The gospel music and hymn singing around me undergirds my own religious faith. Familiar gospel songs are part of me and my loved ones. I see seated around me family groups, namely, husband, wife and children, grandparents, etc. I feel that I am there among those who believe and worship God as I enjoy doing. I feel "at home" among my own kind in a comfortable Christian environment.

I hear my pastor preach a powerful and challenging message from the Bible. After the church service, I feel refreshed as if I had undergone a spiritual bath! I look forward to God's leadership in my life in the days ahead.

After the church service, I speak and visit with Christian friends and acquaintances. These are people over the years I know, love, and trust. We feel toward others as "family" members.

My church is there WHEN I need it: whether I am well or sick. The church members are the same as the heavenly angels I'll associate with in heaven!

To God be the glory.  
Robert S. Leigh  
Jackson

Amen — Editor

## Handled admirably

Editor:  
Your editorial in last week's paper commending the people who voted against the lottery and putting their pictures in the paper was truly outstanding. I sent a copy of your editorial and the pictures to each of the 27 senators who voted against the lottery. Your editorial in Thursday's paper was good also. I think you have handled this entire question admirably.

Wm. B. Alexander  
Cleveland

## The lottery

Editor:  
As you know by now, the lottery has failed. While I personally oppose the lottery, that in itself is not the main reason that I voted against the constitutional amendment. The reason I voted against the constitutional amendment was because, through the lottery process, the State of Mississippi would only be able to utilize approximately \$1 of every \$5 collected from the sale of lottery tickets. Approximately 45 percent of every dollar would have gone for prizes; 35 percent for administrative costs and supplies, with only 20 cents available to fund the new program.

I personally think it is a poor way to raise the revenue needed to fund educational reform.

Thank you for taking the time to write. I greatly appreciate your support.

Irb Benjamin  
State senator

## Christian parents

Editor:  
This letter is directed to those people who may have lost one or both of their parents. I recently lost my mother to heart disease. My mother and I were very close. She was my best friend, my buddy, my pal. I always knew she was there when I needed someone or something. I knew my dad was there also, but I always seemed to call on Mother.

It has been very hard for me to adjust to my mother's death. I find myself picking up the phone and calling mother, and guess who answers the phone? Dad. I realize then how thankful I am to have Dad still around and what he really means to my life. It was Dad who led me to Christ.

So to all the people who still have their mothers and dads, please don't forget to tell them how much you love them while you still can.

Linda Vanlandingham  
Trebloc, MS

## Witnessing made simple

Editor:  
As most are aware, there are numerous lost people who are yet to be saved; and it is the Christian's responsibility to witness to them. However, door-to-door witnessing cannot only be hard at times, but in some towns is even illegal.

Therefore, one means of accomplishing such witnessing is by doing so through business reply mail. For example, when an insurance company sends a post-marked envelope, the resident may return a gospel tract related to "How To Be Born Again." This way someone down the line may realize the Holy Spirit is speaking to him (whether or not we are interested in the insurance).

Why not witness this way? The postage is already paid; therefore, all it takes is for Christians to do their part in spreading the Word.

May God bless America spiritually.  
Mark D. Lofton  
Rt. 8, 2979 ABC  
Tupelo, MS 38801

I have no problem with that, but it seems one thing needs to be pointed out. As I understand business reply mail, the postage is not paid until the envelope is returned. — Editor

## Revival dates

Wiggins, Carthage (Leake): March 2-4; Robert Parrish, Rocky Point, Carthage; Billy Joe Stewart, Wiggins, Carthage, music; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, regular times; Carlton Jones, pastor.

Oakdale (Rankin): Mar. 4-7; Sunday, regular services; nightly services, 7; Anis Shorosh, Spanish Fort, Ala., a native of Nazareth and a former pastor of the Jerusalem Baptist Church, has been in full-time evangelism since 1966; Phillip Willis, Baton Rouge, La., full-time evangelism, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

Antioch, Louin (Jasper): Feb. 25-28; Donnie Guy, evangelist; Gene Laton and Roger Cresswell, music; Carey Bass, pastor; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:15 p.m.

First Rosedale (Bolivar): March 4-7; Eddie Davidson, Camden Church, Camden, Ala., evangelist; Mac Pace, Antioch, Columbus, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; David E. Sartin, pastor.



# Ina McFall retires from MBCB computer duties

By Anne W. McWilliams

Ina McFall is retiring this month as computer operator coordinator in the business office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. She has worked for Baptists for 20 years, including six or seven years for the Baptist Record.

A member of New Zion Baptist Church, Simpson County, she is a Sunday School teacher. Besides computers, her interests have covered a broad range, from sewing to gardening to cooking, but she says now, "I am ready to rest and not set any goals. I have loved every minute of my work at the Baptist Building, but I feel it's time for a change. I look forward to whatever the Lord has in store for me. Perhaps I'll travel more, bake bread, sew, visit the sick, just do whatever He wants me to do from day to day."

Ina was born at Flora, one of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Floyd. Her father was an attorney in Flora and Jackson. A graduate of Magee High School, she attended IBM Training School.

Her son, Jasper Carroll Mangum, and his wife, Joan, live in Jackson. He works for Miller Transport and is a deacon at Parkway Church. Their daughter, Ginger, is a senior at Forest Hill. Joan works with the State Highway Department.

Her daughter, Jayne Herrington, and her husband, James, who is a member of the Air National Guard, have one son, Steven, a student at McLaurin School. They live in Florence.

Ina spoke in chapel at the Baptist Building on Feb. 9. "If you believe in one word of this Bible," she said, "you have to believe in prayer." Two verses she read, John 15:7 and John 14:6, she said, have been especially meaningful to her: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you," and "Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life . . .'"

In her message, she gave a testimony of her conversion experience and of how she has, through prayer, sought God's guidance in various decisions. Also she told stories of some of the answered prayers in her life.

When she was 13, she joined the Methodist church, she recalled, because her friends were joining, and she thought that would help her be "among the elite." But it was not until she was 28 and had become the mother of a son and gone through a divorce that she actually received the Lord as her Savior, she said. She went to a revival meeting with a friend. "That night the Holy Spirit just opened my eyes and I realized I didn't have anything. I sat there and I said, 'Lord, I haven't killed anybody. I haven't robbed anyone. I know I could never learn to be like you.' I felt so unworthy. We stood up to sing the invitation hymn. Something hit me on the shoulder, like the wing of a bird passing by . . . I was sitting next to the aisle and I felt a force pulling me down the aisle. I looked around to see if my



McFall

friend was coming, if the force was pulling her, too! I went and knelt down and asked the Lord to forgive me and I cried and prayed, and he was there just listening. When I stood up, I felt like a real burden had lifted. I felt real good!"

Though she had read the Bible and memorized Bible verses before, she said, she had never before understood their meaning. That night, she remembers, she sat up until 2 a.m. reading the Bible. What she had not understood before had now become clear.

Later, after she had met Oscar McFall and was thinking of marrying again, she wasn't sure whether or not to say yes. Her son wanted her to marry again, for he said, "I want a daddy." But she wanted to be sure she was doing the right thing. One day, when she was putting on her make-up, looking in the mirror, she asked, "Lord, what shall I do? I would really like to know how much he really cares for me." She heard a voice say, "Read Proverbs 31." And, Ina admits, "I didn't even know Proverbs had a 31." When she began reading and got down to verses 11, 12, and 13, she thought, "This is great! I didn't know he loved me this much! Just let him ask me again!"

In the chapel talk, she said, "I like to talk to God. I talk to him everywhere, at home, at the table, in the bed, in my car. One day I was sitting in the swing, talking to him." She had married Oscar quite a while before, and now he was planning to retire, for health reasons. She needed to return to work, so she prayed about finding the right place of employment. Soon afterward, she took her husband to the doctor, and there saw Art Nelson, business manager of Miss. Baptist Convention Board. She had previously worked with him at Mississippi Products, Inc. He asked, "Have you thought about going back to work? I need a computer operator." A few weeks later, she began her work with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

It was after she began that work that she decided to become a Baptist, and was baptized. She related in her talk how she was seated in the chapel one day in the Baptist Building. During a time of prayer, she could see a vision of a man in a white robe against a black background. To her, this was God's way of telling her he wanted her to be baptized, she said. (She had already begun attending New Zion Baptist Church.)

To recognize Ina's faithfulness and accuracy in her work and to express appreciation for her wit and humor and cooperative spirit, the business office gave a reception honoring her on Friday, Feb. 16, and presented to her several gifts.

"If you don't believe in prayer," says Ina, "just ask me, and I'll tell you what I believe about prayer!"

## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

### Here and there

Thanks to all of you readers who have written, congratulating me on my promotion to associate editor. Some have asked if I plan to keep writing "Faces and Places." The answer is yes. Tim Nicholas says that my columns and stories will just keep growing longer and longer now, since he won't be standing nearby to restrain me with his barbed remarks about their extended length! I plan to prove him wrong, and begin to write shorter columns, instead of longer.

Had Tim not gotten a promotion, then neither would I have gotten one. I'm happy for him to have one. Yet I'd much rather have done without than to lose Tim from the Baptist Record staff. Not only is he a warmhearted, caring friend, but he is a superior craftsman who knows every angle of the journalism profession from A to Z. I'm glad we'll still be working together as he delivers copy from the Office of Communication.

\*\*\*\*\*

You may have noticed we print quite a few stories from Maxine Stewart, missionary to Thailand. I met her when I was in Bangkok. In one of her letters, she was asking if W. D. had been fishing lately, and she told me a little about her Mississippi uncle. She wrote, "Do you have big fish fries in the old-fashioned 'washpot'?" My Mississippi uncle's family used to do that often. His name was Lee Lassiter. He conducted a lot of 'Singing Schools' and people all around Purvis knew him. Crowds of people would get together for fish fries. (When he died, we were told that over 1,000 people attended his funeral.) We never did that kind of fishing. We just usually had 'family' fries, as our catch was usually small. I have been krauting today. I made strawberry jam last week.

We're so glad the king started people growing strawberries instead of poppies."

\*\*\*\*\*

Once when I was worrying unnecessarily about an unfinished project, Indy Whitten, who is probably the world champion optimist, sent me

this clipping:

**How to Worry, Scientifically:**

- 1) Never worry over rumors of what "they" say. First get the facts.
- 2) Know definitely your worry problem. Write it down. Face it.
- 3) Worry about only one problem at a time.
- 4) Set a definite day, afternoon, or night for worrying.
- 5) Never worry in bed, in the dining room, living room, or at church.
- 6) Select an air-conditioned room. Lean back in an easy chair.
- 7) Set a time limit. If you must go beyond it, give yourself credit for time-and-a-half.
- 8) Never worry with a frowning face. Smile, sing, or whistle.
- 9) Never worry when you are tired, sick, angry, or depressed.
- 10) Never worry while working, playing, visiting, shopping or gossiping.
- 11) Two times never to worry: (a) when you can help the situation; (b) when you cannot.
- 12) Never worry alone. Take it to the Lord (see Proverbs 24:19; Phil. 4:6).

\*\*\*\*\*

David Gomes, Brazilian preacher, still writes me at regular intervals. The Church of Hope in Rio, where he is pastor, has started many preaching points and missions. One of their missions is near the central railway center in Rio and not only has preaching services but is also a sort of social services center. I'd like to share an unusual story from one of David's letters: "Last night," he wrote, "a lady at our social work center in Central told of her material problems and her desire to learn needlework (so she could sell it to help earn a living.) 'I could not do needlework,' she said, 'but you told me Jesus could help me. After suffering (ill treatment) from my husband, I prayed hard to Jesus, begging him to teach me the work. I dreamed that I was learning it from Jesus. In the morning I discovered that I knew how to use the needles, and here is a piece of the work that I did.' Everyone had to cry. Jesus did it!"

## William Carey taps alumni for two administrative posts

Jim Edwards, president of Wm. Carey College, has announced the appointment of two alumni to top administrative positions at William Carey on the Coast. Mrs. Rosalind Robbins has been appointed to the newly created position of director of academic and student services and Bill Payne has been appointed associate dean of academic programs and director of a planned Center for Educational Leadership and Economic Development. Effective immediately, Payne holds the rank of adjunct professor of education. In June, he will assume the rank of professor of education and business.

Mrs. Robbins, 1962 graduate of William Carey, holds a M. Ed. degree in counseling from the University of Southern Mississippi and has completed an additional year of study at Baylor University in student personnel services. She has been associated with Gulfport city schools as a teacher and counselor.

Payne is currently employed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission as director of industrial relations and director of career education studies. He also designed in the early 1980's the study of all public education

in Tennessee and provided leadership for the 1984 Comprehensive Education Reform Act in Tennessee. Prior to that time he was director of federal and state projects and a superintendent in the Memphis city schools. He has taught graduate classes at UT — Knoxville, UT — Memphis, and Memphis State University.

Payne holds a master's degree and doctorate in education from the University of Mississippi. In 1983, he was presented an "Outstanding Alumnus Award" from William Carey. His wife, Mary, is a WCC graduate, also.

"The purpose of the Center for Educational Leadership and Economic Development will be to promote educational leadership and strengthen economic development activities in the Mid-South region and especially in south Mississippi," said Edwards. The Center will increase the college's commitment to public service, training and professional development, and research and grant support related to the abilities and skills needed by employees in south Mississippi. It will also help establish linkages between government, the private sector, and educational institutions at all levels.

### Devotional

## Compassion for people

By Pat Bufkin

During the summer of 1960 I came home from work and found my wife searching desperately for our three-and-a-half-year-old son. He had wandered off while the maid was busy in the kitchen. There was a bayou near our home and we were afraid he had gone there. We searched the banks. We went from house to house. We called the police and neighbors to assist us. Finally, about two hours later, we found him two blocks from our home.

Later, I reflected on the incident. During the time he was missing, nothing else mattered. I had come home to eat dinner and return to work, but it was forgotten. I could think of only one thing, "My son was lost." I had only one prayer, and I must have prayed it a thousand times, "O Lord, help me find our son."

But as I recall the incident, I ask myself, "Have I as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, felt that same terrible urgency about the souls of men who are lost from God?"

I must continue to remind myself that I need the same compassion for people which our Lord had. It reminds me of what the Scripture says in Matthew 9:36-38. It says, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.' " The sad pitiful religious state of the crowds moved Jesus with compassion for them. They were desperately longing for God, but the religious leaders offered them nothing but heavy burdens.

I see that same thing happening today. People are literally starving for the Word of God, for a touch of the Master's hand. Most Christians I know are not concerned. We have built our churches around ourselves and are ministering only to those in our own circles. But Jesus tells us to go into all the world and make disciples. We need compassion for people. The problem is there are so many without Christ.

I got a picture of the multitudes of people without Christ when I was in Japan on mission in October. In the metropolitan area of Tokyo there are over 30 million people, and less than two percent are Christian. And then I realize that more than 155 million people in America are lost.

It is hard to believe that 6,120 Southern Baptist churches last year did not baptize one single person. It is hard to believe that we have something so great as the Good News of the gospel and are not sharing it with the lost world. Let us ask the Lord to give us compassion for people.

Bufkin is pastor, Pilgrim's Rest, Crystal Springs.



Bufkin



## FMB appoints first deaf person to deaf ministry

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — Although deaf from birth, Yvette Aarons never doubted hearing God's call to foreign missions.

When she arrives in Trinidad in early March, Aarons will become the first deaf person assigned by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work in a deaf ministry.

Aarons, a native of Jamaica and a naturalized U.S. citizen, was commissioned for her two-year special assignment in deaf ministry by Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church in Houston, where she had been a Mission Service Corps volunteer youth minister.

She worked on the church staff for two years after completing

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Aarons first applied to the Foreign Mission Board as a candidate for missions service in 1985, but her request for consideration was denied because she was handicapped. However, in 1987, the board voted to eliminate deafness as a handicap precluding people for foreign missions service.

Last October, Aarons was notified that she had been approved as a "special assignment" worker to Trinidad, where she will teach sign language, provide religious instruction to the deaf and develop outreach ministries and other programs for deaf people.

## January remains 'typical' for Cooperative Program

NASHVILLE (BP) — January maintained its typical best-month-of-the-year status for the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget.

The Cooperative Program received \$14,580,510 in January, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

That makes January 1990 the third-best month in the Cooperative Program's 65-year history. January 1988 tops the list, with more than \$15.5 million, followed by January 1989, with almost \$15.1 million. In fact, five of the budget's six best monthly totals have been set in January.

The latest January receipts bring the budget's year-to-date total to \$47,722,201 after four months of its October-through-September fiscal year, Bennett reported.

That amount is \$480,060, or 1.02 percent, more than the Cooperative Program received during the first four months of the 1988-89 fiscal year, he

said. The U.S. inflation rate currently is about 4.5 percent.

The Cooperative Program's basic operating budget goal is \$134,787,543. This year's Cooperative Program also includes a \$2.5 million capital needs priority item, designed to pay off the debt on the SBC Building in Nashville, which is five years old this month.

Cooperative Program monthly receipts must average \$11.2 million for the balance of the fiscal year for it to reach the overall goal. The program has eclipsed that mark 15 times in the past 24 months, Bennett noted.

The Cooperative Program helps support 18 SBC organizations that conduct evangelistic, missionary, and educational ministries worldwide. It is funded by contributions from individual Southern Baptists. Their gifts are processed through the budgets of local churches and state Baptist conventions before reaching the Executive Committee for distribution to the receiving organizations.

## Q & A on Drugs . . .

### How can I identify the drug abuse in my children?

I have heard so much about "denial" and chemical dependency — as a parent how can I be sure I am not in denial, identifying drug abuse in my own children?

Here is a denial checklist.

1. Does your child have red eyes most of the time? Does he have his own supply of eye drops?
2. Are you ignoring changes in your child's behavior? Changes in grades? Changes in personality?
3. Do you attribute unacceptable behavior to "growing up" or "just being a kid?"
4. Do you blame your spouse for your child's problems?
5. Do you listen to your spouse or outsiders when they suggest that your child may have a problem with drugs? Or do you just get mad at the accuser?
6. Are you feeling like a failure as a parent?
7. Do you buy your child's stories that the drugs or paraphernalia you found in his room belong to a friend?
8. If you are a working mother, do you blame yourself for your child's problems because you're not at home? If you're a working father, do you

blame yourself because you work such long hours or have to be on the road a lot?

9. If you went into your child's room right now, would you find any sign of drugs? What would you do if you did?

10. Are you blaming divorce or the absence of one parent in the home for your child's behavior?

11. Are you feeling anxious about the problems your child is having adjusting to growing up?

12. Has your child admitted trying marijuana? Will he or she talk about it?

13. Does he admit to smoking "only" pot? Do you believe him?

The answer to this question has been provided by Thomas Mitchell, who is the field representative at Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center.

Please send all your questions about drug and alcohol dependency to Chaplain Don Nerren, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202-2002, or call toll free outside Jackson at 1-800-962-6868 or in Jackson at 968-1102. All questions will be answered in letter form whether or not they appear in this column.

## Senior Adult Corner



Members of the AAA (Alive, Alert and Adventurous) Ministry of First Church, Hattiesburg, gathered in November, 1989, to celebrate their 10th anniversary.

This was a pioneer group in the senior adult ministry, not only in Mississippi, but in the Southern Baptist Convention. Mrs. Barbara Ann Ross has been the coordinator for the group since the beginning and many in the photograph are charter members.

The AAA has a "kitchen-band" that has performed at many functions all over south Mississippi and Alabama. They have been featured at senior adult conferences at Gulfshore. Too,

many of these travel together on tours around the country and abroad, as well as one and two-day trips nearby.

The officers are seated in front of the group. They include William McCain, president; Carolyn Howell, program chairman; Alice Steen Simmons, treasurer; Irene Loftus, secretary. Mrs. Ross, coordinator, is standing behind Carolyn Howell (dark outfit). Earl Arnote, 98, seated to the right, is the oldest participating member. Randy Von Kanel, pastor, and Bill Crider, minister of education, are standing on the back row on either side.

## Names in the news

Henry J. Bennett on Feb. 11 finished 40 years as pastor in Hinds County, serving Byram Church for 38 years and Terry Road Church two years. During this time he has served as moderator of Hinds-Madison Association, and also as board member of Mississippi Baptist Convention. He served seven years as pastor in other counties.

Gatesville Church, Crystal Springs, will have a deacon ordination service for Albert Davis, Craig Merchant, and Haskel Turner, Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. Talmadge Smith, director of missions for Copiah Association, will participate in the service. Phil Mullens is pastor.



Miss Nora McLain

### 1st Church, Laurel plans Billy Vaughan Day

Billy Vaughan, minister of music for 18 years at First Church, Laurel, will be honored Sunday, February 25. A churchwide reception in honor of the Vaughans will follow the evening worship service in the Family Life Center.

## Homecomings

Lake Washington First, Glen Allan: Feb. 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch served followed by a program of gospel music with the Rouse Family of Lumberton; a special note burning ceremony will be part of the activities; a decision was made to build a new church in 1978 and in 1979, the building was dedicated; Owen Riddick, pastor.

## Senior adult area meeting will be held in March

Area 9 Senior Adult Enrichment meeting will be held on March 6 at Gulfshore Assembly, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost will be \$7.00 per person including lunch. Reservations should be made through Roger Alewine, First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 70, Gulfport, Miss. 39502. The theme will be "Understanding the Pastor's Role in Ministering to Senior Adults." Among the program personalities will be Joe McIntyre, pastor of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport; Dean Register, pastor of FBC, Gulfport; and several other local church staff and personalities.

On March 13, a second section of Area 9 will meet with First Church, Lucedale, 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish for lunch. Among the program personalities are Ben Blackwell, Rocky Creek Church; Fred Moseley, FBC, Lucedale; John Henry, Barton Church, Lucedale; and Doug Broome, Calvary Church, Waynesboro.

For the host church to make proper preparation for the luncheon, the

number attending from each church should be reported to Horace Glass by March 12 at P. O. Box 1029, Leakesville, Miss. 39451 or call 947-4981.

Area 8 meeting will be held at the Temple Church, Hattiesburg, on March 13, at 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. with the theme, "We Are in This Together — Pastor and Senior Adults." Among those participating in this program will be Don Dobbins, Collins Church; Wayne Ward, Columbia; Louis Nicolosi, Purvis; and Bud Swindall, Sandersville. In addition to Petal Senior Choir, the Petal Harvey Church will bring special music. Russell Cottingham, Laurel, will preside. Reservations should be made by March 6 to Temple Church, 1508 Hardy St., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401. The fee, including lunch, is \$5.00 per person.

Hazlehurst, FBC, will host Area 7 meeting March 13, at 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with a lunch paid for from the registration fee of \$4.00 with March 4 as the deadline for registering. Reports should be made to Talmadge Smith at the Copiah Baptist Association Office, Hazlehurst. Program personalities will include Robert Hanvey, Hazlehurst; Mark Moore, Hazlehurst; Terry Minton, East McComb; and James Beasley and First Church, Crystal Springs Senior Adult Choir.

Announcements will be made concerning other area meetings at a later date. Pastors are especially urged to attend these meetings and special recognition will be given them, says J. Clark Hensley, of the Discipleship Training Department.

## Seminary will host basic writers' conference

FORT WORTH, Texas — A conference offering assistance to aspiring writers is being sponsored by Southwestern Seminary March 1-2 on the school's campus in Fort Worth.

Lucien Coleman, professor of adult education at Southwestern, will lead the workshop.

Topics for the conference include "The Basics: What Every Good Writer Must Know," "Beyond Basics: Writing With Style," and "Breaking Into Print: Writing Your Article."

The cost of the conference is \$35 for each individual, \$55 per couple and students may attend for \$20.

For more information on the conference, contact the Department of Continuing Education, Southwestern Seminary, P. O. Box 22207, Fort Worth, Texas, 76122, or call (817) 923-1921, ext. 2440.

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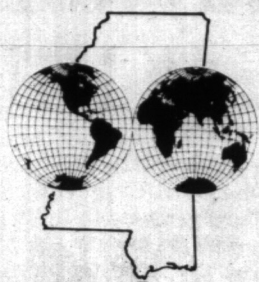
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| Attala        |                       |                         |                             |
| Benton        |                       |                         |                             |
| Bolivar       |                       |                         |                             |
| Calhoun       | 11                    | 57                      | 14                          |
| Carroll       |                       |                         |                             |
| Chickasaw     |                       |                         |                             |
| Choctaw       |                       |                         |                             |
| Clarke        |                       |                         |                             |
| Clay          |                       |                         |                             |
| Copiah        |                       |                         |                             |
| Covington     | 1                     | 6                       | 0                           |
| Franklin      |                       |                         |                             |
| George        |                       |                         |                             |
| Greene        |                       |                         |                             |
| Grenada       | 4                     | 20                      | 4                           |
| Gulfcoast     |                       |                         |                             |
| Hinds-Madison |                       |                         |                             |
| Holmes        |                       |                         |                             |
| Humphreys     |                       |                         |                             |
| Itawamba      |                       |                         |                             |
| Jackson       | 17                    | 36                      | 6                           |
| Jasper        |                       |                         |                             |
| Jeff Davis    | 2                     | 3                       | 9                           |
| Jones         |                       |                         |                             |
| Kemper        |                       |                         |                             |
| Lafayette     |                       |                         |                             |
| Lamar         | 2                     | 12                      | 5                           |
| Lauderdale    |                       |                         |                             |
| Lawrence      |                       |                         |                             |
| Leake         |                       |                         |                             |
| Lebanon       | 7                     | 9                       | 4                           |
| Lee           |                       |                         |                             |
| Leflore       |                       |                         |                             |
| Lincoln       |                       |                         |                             |
| Lowndes       | 1                     | 1                       | 1                           |
| Marion        |                       |                         |                             |
| Marshall      |                       |                         |                             |
| Mississippi   |                       |                         |                             |
| Monroe        |                       |                         |                             |
| Montgomery    |                       |                         |                             |
| Neshoba       |                       |                         |                             |
| New Choctaw   |                       |                         |                             |
| Newton        |                       |                         |                             |
| North Delta   |                       |                         |                             |
| Northwest     |                       |                         |                             |
| Noxubee       |                       |                         |                             |
| Oktibbeha     | 1                     | 13                      | 1                           |
| Panola        | 3                     | 13                      | 7                           |
| Pearl River   |                       |                         |                             |
| Perry         |                       |                         |                             |
| Pike          |                       |                         |                             |
| Pontotoc      |                       |                         |                             |
| Prentiss      |                       |                         |                             |
| Rankin        | 5                     | 16                      | 6                           |
| Scott         |                       |                         |                             |
| Sharkey-      |                       |                         |                             |
| Issaquena     |                       |                         |                             |
| Simpson       | 2                     | 15                      | 10                          |
| Smith         |                       |                         |                             |
| Sunflower     |                       |                         |                             |
| Tallahatchie  |                       |                         |                             |
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| Yalobusha     |                       |                         |                             |
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## WMU starts program for men, women

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will launch a new missions program for adult men and women called CONTACT next year.

The name CONTACT was taken from the acronym for "Christians Obeying Now The Actions Christ Taught."

"The ultimate goal of CONTACT is to increase awareness of missions and to involve more people in missions," said Betty Merrell, chairman of the team that created CONTACT and manager of the WMU age-level magazines group.

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has joined WMU in planning CONTACT and wholeheartedly supports CONTACT, said Douglas Beggs, director of the commission's adult division.

WMU officials hope CONTACT will be a way to involve men and women in missions who are not participating in a missions organization. They also see CONTACT as a source of renewal and inspiration for long-time members of missions organizations, Merrell said. "We're anxious to get missions and the missions story to people so they can see it is the foundation of everything," she said. "Also, there are people who have been in missions organizations for a long, long time and who have worked diligently.

We feel CONTACT will be an infusion of energy for them. We also want to reach missions dropouts — people who used to be active in missions organizations and need a special place to jump back in."

The goal of Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust campaign — to allow every person in the world the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel message by the year 2000 — is another reason WMU officials feel CONTACT is important to launch now, Merrell said.

The structure of each 12-week CONTACT program is designed so it can be used by individuals or groups.

The plan will consist of five units, each covering 12 weeks, to be released one per year for five years, Merrell said. "The units are designed to be used from the first unit through the fifth, but they may be used in any order since they don't necessarily build on each other."

One unit will be released each year beginning in 1991.

The five units explore God's redemptive plan from different perspectives, Merrell said. They are Unit 1, from God's perspective; Unit 2, from Jesus' perspective; Unit 3, from the Holy Spirit's perspective; Unit 4, from the perspective of the Holy Trinity combined; Unit 5, from the individual's perspective.

Susan Todd writes for WMU, SBC.

## Jimmy Allen announces premier of TV network

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — The former head of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has announced the formation of a television network that will offer a daily news hour and a home shopping service.

Life Television Network was to premiere Feb. 12 in about 40 markets across the nation, said Jimmy R. Allen, network president.

Until his resignation in June 1989, Allen was president of the RTVC and of ACTS, the commission's satellite network.

LTN in no way should be seen as competing with ACTS since the new network is designed for full-power television stations, not cable stations, Allen said.

LTN is to provide three hours of live programming to independent television stations each Monday through Friday. One hour per day is to feature

"LTN Evening News," and the other two hours are to feature the "Life Enrichment Shopping Service."

"LTN Evening News" is "undoubtedly the most ambitious news program ever attempted with life-enrichment emphasis and daily worldwide news feeds," Allen said.

Deborah Tyler, who formerly appeared on the ACTS news program "What's Happening," will anchor LTN's news hour.

The network has described its home shopping service — which will allow viewers to purchase a variety of products by telephone — as a "merchandise-oriented, live program emphasizing the uplifting of the whole man."

Jarrell McCracken, former president of Word Inc., has joined the network as president of the shopping service.

## Carey College sets spiritual emphasis week

William Carey College has set Feb. 26-March 1 for its Spiritual Emphasis Week. Meetings will be held in the Kresge Room of Thomas Business Building, Monday through Thursday, each day at noon; 11 a.m., Thursday during the Church Related Vocations Fellowship held in Lawrence Hall; and at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday during chapel. The guest speaker for Spiritual Emphasis Week will be Chester Swor.

Swor, a native of Mississippi, received an honorary doctor of literature degree from William Carey College.

The main auditorium at Mississippi College is named Swor Auditorium for him.

Swor is engaged full-time in religious lecture work and counseling. He has been on several mission trips, including Europe and the Canal Zone. He is author of several books, including "Very Truly Yours, If We Dared! Neither Down Nor Out, and The Parent Slant."

Frank Bowers, religious activities director, said that Swor will be available for personal conferences.

## Just for the Record



Macedonia Church, Simpson County, set a goal of \$800 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, and exceeded that goal by more than \$300, with an offering of \$1,143.65.

Pictured is the display that was used to promote the offering. It is a crown with 10 colored lights, each representing \$80 in gifts. Over and beneath the crown was the motto, "SENT TO SERVE AND CROWN HIM." The display was created by Mrs. Doris Sue Brodus.

Pictured, left to right, are, Mrs. Francis Mullin, Mrs. Norris Culpepper, Mrs. Betty Case, Mrs. Mary Newton, Mrs. Elizabeth Foster, Mrs. Edith Wallace, Mrs. Mary Byrd, Mrs. Sandra Byars, Mrs. Doris Sue Brodus, Mrs. Christine Coleman, Mrs. Liz Reeves, and Mrs. Jewel Warren.

Also shown are Charles M. Case, pastor, and Theo Boggan, deacon, who helped promote the record breaking offering.

The Blue Mountain College Department of Music announces plans for its spring tour, Feb. 25-28.

The tour features the Chorale, a 30-voice select ensemble comprised of students from several states, and New Dimension, an eight-voice ensemble that performs contemporary Christian music. The chorale will perform music by Palestrina, Scarlatti, Handel, Haydn, Marshall, Rutter, and Thompson among many others.

The choirs will perform at the following churches: Caddo Heights Baptist, Shreveport, La.; First Baptist, Farmerville, La.; North Monroe Baptist, Monroe, La.; and First Baptist, Pearl, Miss. The tour will also include performance at Captain Shreve High School and Northeast Louisiana University.

The choral groups are under the direction of David Gilmore, assistant professor of music at Blue Mountain, and are accompanied by Terry McRoberts, associate professor of music.

## HMB offers phone number for "Here's Hope"

ATLANTA (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will open a "Here's Hope Victory Line" for callers to report results of the denomination's simultaneous revivals March 18-April 29.

The number is (404) 898-7589. Staff members from the board's mass evangelism department will take calls between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern time, Mondays through Fridays. The number is not toll-free.

Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism, said he hopes to hear from pastors, associational directors of missions and laypeople who experience victories in their churches through the "Here's Hope" revivals. Callers may give testimonies, report professions of faith, baptisms or other decisions, he explained.

Testimonies given by callers could reflect victories that statistical reports will not show, Harris added.

About 80 percent of Southern Baptists' 37,000 churches are planning to participate in the simultaneous revivals, Harris said.

Seminary Church, Seminary, will host a concert of sacred music featuring Mary Lou Lott on Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. She was reared in Seminary and for the past 12 years has taught voice and music appreciation at Hinds Community College. A soprano, she holds a master of music education degree from USM.

Also, on program will be Glenna Dennis of Pearl. She teaches voice at Hinds Community College and is a choir director of Pearl Presbyterian Church.

Playing for duets and other selections will be Martha Rogers Tisdale of Ellisville. She has served as church organist and currently teaches music for children at USM.

A reception will be held immediately following the concert in the church's East Room.

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## Staff changes

Chuck Pittman has recently accepted the position of minister of music/education at First Church, Terry. He received his master of church music degree from New Orleans Seminary in December, 1989. He goes to Terry from St. Bernard Baptist Church, Chalmette, La.



Pittman

James L. Yates has resigned Holly Springs Church in Marion County and is available for supply or interim work. He may be contacted at Route 3, Box 54 AB, Foxworth, MS 30483 or phone 736-7277.

Pleasant Ridge Church, Woodland, has called Lisa Gurley of Mathiston as minister of music, effective Jan. 7. She is presently a sophomore at Wood Jr. College.

Terry Brown, a native of Clarksdale, recently accepted the pastorate at Clear Branch Church, Lincoln County. He previously served as pastor of Tocowa Church in Panola County. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and plans to attend Reformed Theological Seminary this fall.

Airport Church, Grenada, has called Kerry T. Nelson of Pontotoc, as pastor, effective Feb. 11. He received his education at Blue Mountain College. Airport Church is his first pastorate.

David R. Gilmore has gone to Parkway Church, Tupelo, as minister of music (part time). He served Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain from Jan. 25, 1987 to Feb. 4, 1990. He is on the music faculty at Blue Mountain College.

Sand Ridge Church, Lake, has called Timmy Fanguy, a native of Houma, La., as pastor, effective Feb. 7. He is a student at Mississippi College on the campus of Clarke College.

Sardis Lake Church, Sardis, called Ronald Rhea as pastor, effective Jan. 7. His previous place of service was Mt. Pleasant Church in Marshall County. He attended Memphis State University, Blue Mountain College, and Mid-America Seminary, Memphis. Rhea has served in pioneer missions in Michigan and New York.

First Church, Sumner, has called J. B. Hays, Jr., as pastor. He is a graduate of Volunteer State Community College, Middle Tennessee State University, and Mid-America Seminary. He was ordained by Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis. He has served over five years as pastor of First Church, Altamont, Kansas.

Second Avenue Church, Laurel, has called Sandra King as youth and activities director.

Miss King is also employed by the Wellness Center, a division of South Central Regional Medical Center of Jones County. Tom F. Rayburn is pastor.

Hermanville Church, Hermanville, has called Floyd V. Riggs as pastor. Riggs, a native of Kentucky and a graduate of Baylor University, has held pastorates in Illinois, Texas, and California. He formerly was pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Imperial, Calif.

Brownsville Church, Brownsville, Tenn., called Michael Edward Hickman as minister of activities and youth, effective Jan. 2. Hickman received his education from Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.



Hickman

Dennis McIntire, who has been minister of music at Midway Church, Jackson, for the past five years, is now the minister of music for First Church, Cookeville, Tenn. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and holds a Ph.D. from University of Southern Mississippi.

The overworked accountant asked his boss for a raise. "I have three companies after me," he proclaimed. "They're anxious to see me, but I prefer to be loyal to you."

"In that case your wages will be raised ten per cent," beamed the employer. "Would you mind telling me who the three companies are?"

"Not in the least," brightened the accountant, "Light, Telephone, and Water."

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Feb. 25 Volunteers in Mission Day (BRO Emphasis)
- Feb. 26 State VBS Clinic; FBC, McComb; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (SS)  
Baptist Doctrine Preview Study; Blue Mountain College; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (DT)
- Feb. 27 State VBS Clinic; FBC, Hattiesburg; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (SS)  
Baptist Doctrine Preview Study; Delta State University, Cleveland; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (DT)  
State Growth Spiral Conference; Temple BC, Hattiesburg; 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m. (SS)
- Feb. 28 State VBS Clinic; FBC, Brandon; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (SS)  
Baptist Doctrine Preview Study; Mississippi College, Clinton; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (DT)
- Mar. 1 State VBS Clinic; FBC, Greenwood; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (SS)  
Baptist Doctrine Preview Study; William Carey College, Hattiesburg; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (DT)  
Youth Choir Festival; Calvary BC, Tupelo; 6:30-9:00 p.m. (CM)
- Mar. 2 State VBS Clinic; Calvary BC, Tupelo; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (SS)
- Mar. 2 Baptist Doctrine Preview Study; Clarke College, Newton; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (DT)
- Mar. 2-3 Gulfshore North Sunday School Conference; FBC, Oxford; 5 p.m., 2nd-2:30 p.m., 3rd (SS)
- Mar. 2-4 Acteens Convention; FBC, Hattiesburg; 7 p.m., 2nd-10 a.m., 4th (WMU)
- Mar. 3 Church Weekday Education Clinic; Colonial Heights BC, Jackson; 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (CAPM)  
State Youth Four Part Music Festival; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CM)

## Preparations are underway for summer sessions at Central Hills

Preparations are being made for summer missions camp sessions at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, P. O. Box 237, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0237 (phone 601/289-9730). These sessions are for Royal Ambassador boys (grades 1-9) and High School Baptist Young Men (grades 10-12).

Each camper will be required to complete an individual registration form. The one form will provide necessary registration information, medical information, and personal insurance information. This will simplify the registration process. It is requested that the full fee (\$88.00) be paid when the registration form is mailed to Central Hills. A receipt for full payment will be provided for each camper's parents or to the church if the church pays the fee.

Posters have already been mailed to each pastor and to church brotherhood leadership. Registration forms will be mailed to church leaders in March. The registration forms will also be available upon request from Central Hills, Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601/968-3800), and from each association office in Mississippi.

The 1990 camp season will be the 12th summer for camp at Central

Hills, in Attala County, eight miles northwest of Kosciusko just off Highway 19, and one mile north of the Springdale Baptist Church.

Camp sessions are structured in two formats. Resident camp sessions for boys and young men: Grades 4-12 (Mon. 10 a.m. through Fri. 1:30 p.m.). Cost is \$65.00 per camper plus an \$8.00 snack fee, \$7.00 craft shop fee and an \$8.00 souvenir fee for a cap and a "T" shirt. Camp sessions are planned for the following dates: June 18-22; June 25-29; July 9-13; July 16-20; July 23-27; and July 30-August 3.

Lad/Dad Weekend camp session for boys: Grades 1-3 and their dads (Fri. 3 p.m. through Sat., 1:30 p.m.). Cost is \$20.00 per person. The Camp Store will be open for snacks and souvenirs. Camp sessions are planned for the following dates: June 22-23; July 13-14; and July 27-28.

Camper will participate in devotions, flag assemblies, Bible studies, mission study activities, swimming, handicrafts, campcraft skills, canoeing, horseback riding, riflery and archery, the Adventure/Challenge course, tether ball, field games, skits, and the campfire decision service. They will hike the woods trails.

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Campers are grouped in their living "chapter areas" in narrow age groups. Usually there will be no more than two years age span in a chapter. The maximum number of campers for resident camp is 170. The maximum number of campers for Lad/Dad Camp is 100.

"The early weeks of the summer are ideal because of the moderate weather and the enthusiasm of the staffers," said Daniel West, manager/director of the camp. "Register early to be able to claim your choice of dates. Perhaps churches in a given association can plan together to promote a particular week for their campers to attend a camp session. Team promotion will aid in attracting the campers and in providing transportation to and from Central Hills."

Six volunteer counselors are needed for each week of resident camp to supplement the student staffers who work at Central Hills throughout the summer. Pastors, other church staff members, RA counselors, High School Baptist Young Men leaders, and other laymen who are interested may contact Dan West at Central Hills.

## Graham will not attend Seoul congress

McLEAN, Virginia, USA (BWA) — Evangelist Billy Graham, the closing speaker at every Baptist World Congress since 1955, has cancelled his appearance at the 16th Baptist World Congress, Seoul, Korea, Aug. 14-19, 1990, on the medical advice of his doctors. Graham was scheduled to speak at the evangelistic rally on Saturday, August 18.

In a letter to Denton Lotz, general secretary-treasurer of the Baptist World alliance (BWA), T. W. Wilson, executive assistant to Graham, said that "medical doctors at Mayo (Clinic) informed Billy, as well as his board and team leadership, that he either must curtail his schedule or suffer severe consequences in the long term."

"We must take the doctors' warning seriously," Wilson said.

The Graham cancellation is a profound disappointment to the BWA leadership and to the Koreans, "but," says Lotz, "we have now sought God's will and realize that we must move on and evangelize as best we can."

"Baptists know that Graham has been an encourager and supporter of the BWA. His ministry, although interdenominational, has contributed to our significant growth and recognition of Baptists. We want to express our gratitude to him."

Since Graham will not be attending, the Saturday evening evangelism rally has been changed and the Congress will conclude on Saturday evening with a parade of banners from Baptist conventions/unions from around the world that belong to the BWA and a communion service at the invitation of the Suwon Central Baptist Church, Korea.

The evangelistic focus will not change at the Congress. The BWA will launch Vision 2000, a covenant of BWA member bodies to work to evangelize the world by 2000 A.D.

## Religious leaders' banquet will feature Dick Molpus as speaker

Mississippi Secretary of State Dick Molpus is to be the featured speaker for the annual banquet of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference. The banquet is to be held March 5 at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church, 305 N. Congress Street, in Jackson, at 7 p.m.

A member of the clergy in Jackson, Hickman Johnson, is to receive the "Religious Leadership Award" at the banquet. Johnson is pastor of Jackson's Farish Street Baptist Church and president of Mississippi

Baptist Seminary.

The banquet is open to the public with advance reservation of tickets requested. Tickets are \$12.50 each. They may be secured by telephoning MRLC at 352-6752, by March 2. Tickets also are available at the following Jackson locations: Farish Street Baptist Church; Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church; Fondren Presbyterian Church; Mississippi Baptist Seminary; Northminster Baptist Church; and Temple Beth Israel.

## Help needed

## Jackson County Baptists plan third multi-family housing blitz

For the past two years, during the heat of July, young people, adult chaperones, WMU members and even a family of two, have left the comfort of their homes and traveled as far as 400 miles to be involved in a "Ministry Blitz" in nearly a dozen multi-family housing complexes in the Pascagoula-Moss Point area.

From small groups in cars, to bus loads of laughing, singing, energetic youth they have gone to say to boys, girls, parents, and senior citizens in retirement homes, "Jesus loves you and so do I."

For the third time, Rebecca Williams, wife of Billy Williams, pastor of First Church, Gautier, extends an invitation to individuals and groups throughout the state to be a part of this ministry scheduled for July 22-27. Mrs. Williams and the leaders of Jackson County Baptist Association invite "those who have given of themselves during the past two summers to come again and at the same time extend an invitation to other interested groups who go to Jackson County and be a part of sharing Christ with those who need him and are often

eager to receive him."

If you and/or a group from your church desire to be involved in the 1990 Ministry Blitz in Jackson County, please contact Rebecca Williams (497-4050, 497-5141), Bob Storie (769-7101, 475-0399), or Ernest Sadler (769-7102, 475-6205).

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## "Trusting God's power, which is tapped only by prayer"

By Wayne Campbell  
Mark 9:17-29

In the movie *Star Wars*, Ben Kenobi says to Luke Skywalker, "You will know when the Force is with you, for you will receive power." Spiritual power is a legacy of Jesus to his followers.



Campbell

Peter, James, and John had just been with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. And although Peter had expressed a desire to remain there, work was waiting in the valley below. As they approached the other apostles, they noted a group of scribes engaged in a lively discussion with them.

In response to Jesus' question, the father explained (vs. 17), "Teacher, I brought my son to you..." Interestingly, the father had assumed that in bringing his son to the disciples of Jesus, he was bringing him into contact with

### LIFE AND WORK

the power of Jesus. Would that be a valid assumption in reference to us as Jesus' followers today? The father is disappointed, and the scribes were likely enjoying the consternation of the disciples at their failure. The power the father had hoped to encounter in them was lacking, a fact evident to the scribes, the father, the disciples, and the demon.

The father's plea in verse 22 indicates that he had suffered disappointment before in this same request. From childhood, the boy had suffered this affliction, and as the father sought help from every available source, he had likely heard the words "hopeless" and "impossible" in reference to his son's problem.

"Possible" and "impossible" are terms we think we know the application of in every area of life. But we would do well to leave the

diagnosis "impossible" up to God when we confront people's problems, for "all things are possible to him who believes."

The father's response, "If you can..." gives Jesus occasion to emphasize the fact that the power of God is not in question. The issue is not whether God can. The failure of man's efforts is in no way a reflection on the power of God. But it does remind us of Jesus' words, "Without me you can do nothing." Since they had first responded to his call, the disciples had been privileged to hear Jesus' teachings and witness his miracles. Had they failed to understand the source of his power? How much longer must he be with them before they would believe what he had tried to show them (vs. 19)? What kind of disciples would they be when he was no longer physically present with them?

Later when Jesus showed the disciples the problem with their approach (vs. 29), the three who had been on the mountain with Jesus may well have thought, "If we had been there, we would have known that prayer is the key to the

needed power." And we, too, think that we would not have overlooked such an elementary Christian truth. Yet Jesus was speaking of more than just a "spur of the moment" intercession here. He was referring to an attitude of prayer that remains in touch with the Father and draws upon his power.

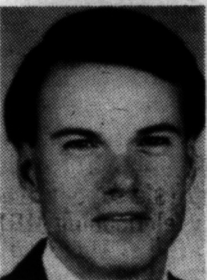
The cry of the distraught father (vs. 24) captures the longing of our own spirits at times. Like him, we sense keenly the imperfect nature of our own faith. Yet he believed Jesus could strengthen his faith. Even though we realize our own faith is not all it should be, we can trust him to strengthen our faith. After all, God, not faith, is the object of our trust. Serving in God's power involves seeking to grow in faith and helping others do likewise. God's power is available for our own needs and those of others, but that power is not tapped "except by prayer." The cries of the needy, the skepticism of the scoffers (vs. 14), and the futility of human efforts alone oblige us to be disciples who pray.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

## God graciously provides leaders

N. Allan Moseley  
Judges 1:1-5:31

Leadership. It is the subject of a growing body of literature written for business management, and it can be the source of blessing or controversy in the church. The word "leadership" conjures a multitude of connotations. When we hear it, we may think of someone like George Washington — aloof, but inspiring. Or, it could bring to mind an Adolf Hitler type — power-hungry and dangerous. Whatever the immediate impressions upon hearing the word, it is certain that leadership is important in our world. Often the difference between glorious success and embarrassing failure is the quantity and quality of leaders.



Moseley

After the death of Joshua, it was as if Israel's rudder had been taken out of the water. Without spiritual leadership, the people began to drift dangerously toward sin and syncretism. Perhaps simply because of inertia, it seems

### BIBLE BOOK

that they began well; they sought the Lord, cooperated with one another, and were victorious (1:1-4). However, instead of killing all the inhabitants, they only maimed Adoni-bezek in direct disobedience to God's command. Further, they quit fighting before the land was taken completely (1:21, 27-35).

When Moses died, Joshua was waiting in the wings to assume leadership; but, when Joshua died, there was no national leader to take charge. Surely the people of Israel were adequately aware of the stipulations of their covenant with God (2:1-5, 20-21), but without someone to provide leadership, they were unwilling to discipline themselves to obey those stipulations. As a result, they suffered the consequences of disobedience. God "gave them into the hands of plunderers" (2:14). The writer of the book of Judges makes it clear that the source of Israel's plight was God himself. His judgment was being expressed because of Israel's unfaithfulness.

Throughout this period of Israel's history, a

cycle of events occurred with monotonous regularity. This cycle consisted of six stages. First, Israel rebelled against God and did what was evil (e.g. 2:11; 3:7). Next, the wrath of God was expressed against Israel in the form of a foreign king dominating or enslaving Israelites (e.g. 2:14-15; 3:8, 12). Third, in the midst of their distress, they cried out to the Lord for help (3:9, 15). Fourth, in response to the prayers of his people, God would raise up a deliverer, or judge, to defeat Israel's oppressors and set the Israelites free (2:16; 3:9, 15). Then, the judge would go to battle and deliver the Israelites (2:18; 3:10). Sixth, and last, Israel would enjoy a period of peace and prosperity, during which the people would return to their rebellious ways and break their covenant with the Lord once again (2:19; 3:12). Without the rudder of leadership, they continually drifted onto the jagged rocks of God's judgment.

In the summer of 1986, when Tom Landry still was the coach of the Dallas Cowboys, he was interviewed by *Leadership* magazine. In that interview, he said, "The job of a football coach is to make men do what they don't want to do, in order to achieve what they've always wanted

to be." The truth is that spiritual growth and faithfulness to God require discipline, and discipline is neither easy nor popular. Sometimes the life of faith is nothing short of difficult; obedience comes with its own brand of burdens. However, if we are to become faithful, obedient, and victorious, the discipline and difficulties are necessary. It helps to have a leader — someone who spurs us on to do what, in the flesh, we don't want to do, in order to achieve what, in the Spirit, we have always wanted to be.

The Israelites did not have to fall into sin, but they did. Only the grace of God in providing judges delivered them from further consequences of their behavior. God has provided a Deliverer for us on the cross, so that all our sin — past, present, and future, is forgiven when we look to him. Also, we have a leader, the Holy Spirit, who continually gives us victory over the enemy by helping us to do what we don't want to do in order to achieve what we have always wanted to be. Thank God for the divine and human leadership that he has given to us!

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly of Bayou View, Gulfport.)

## Indwelt by the spirit

By Tommy Vinson  
John 14:15-27

Have you discovered the wonderful truth that where God guides he also provides? He never makes a demand upon his disciples but that he also generously supplies the resources to fulfill his will. On the contrary, the law of God imposed restrictions upon sinful man's behavior, but offered him no power to meet those holy requirements. A poet summarized the dilemma when he wrote:



Vinson

"Work and do the law demands, but gives me neither nor hands.

A sweeter song the Gospel brings, it bids me fly and gives me wings.

The focal passage for this week is designed to teach us how the Holy Spirit was given to help us carry out Christ's revealed will.

I. The Promise of the Son. (vv. 15, 21, 23, 24) The promise of the Lord Jesus is that if we really love him, then we will obey his commandments. Love is not a sentimental emotion that "gushes" on Sunday and "curdles" on Monday. The present tense used here carries the idea that "if you keep on loving... then you will keep on obeying his commandments." The passage is not teaching a works religion, but

### UNIFORM

is rather highlighting the truth that saving faith results in obedience. James, the half brother of our Lord, wrote in an earlier epistle: "Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works... faith without works is dead." (James 2:18, 20) The phrase, "he that hath my commandments" (v. 21) indicates that we take the commandments into our inner being so that his will becomes our will. The idea is that we value, treasure, guard, and keep His words. The goal is to be able to say with Job: "I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12)

This kind of loving obedience causes Christ to manifest himself to his disciples. (vv. 21-23) A. T. Robertson put it well: "The unseen and risen Christ will be a real and spiritual presence to the obedient and loving believer." (Pg. 254, *Word Pictures in New Testament*) If you find that the Lord Jesus is not as real to you as he once was, or as real as you wish him to be, then inventory your life in the area of your obedience to his revealed will. Are his commandments a burden or a blessing to you?

II. The Promise of the Spirit. (vv. 16-20, 26) In order to obey the commandments of Christ we need a power greater than our own. The

word used here to describe that power is "advocate." It is a word drawn from the legal world and means "a runner called alongside to help." It refers to the Holy Spirit's ministry of comfort and counsel. In light of Jesus' imminent departure they needed someone who would "abide with them forever." (v. 16) They needed a counselor who would soothe their grief, and give wisdom concerning what to do next. Jesus promised he would not leave them comfortless. (v. 18) The word carries the idea of children without parents. He is saying, "I will not leave you as orphans." Since he was "the Spirit of truth" (v. 17) they could depend upon his leading. (cf. John 14:6) It is significant that the Spirit will not dispense with the teachings of Jesus in preference to some higher revelation of the Spirit; rather, He will recall to the disciples' minds the teachings of Christ.

III. The Peace of the Savior. (v. 27) The end result of a life lived in obedience to Christ's commands and under the control of the Holy Spirit is peace. Unlike the peace the world offers, this peace is not contingent upon any outward circumstance. The disciples needed to hear this as they were about to face the agonizing loneliness following Jesus' departure by death. Perhaps you face the loneliness caused by the departure of a loved one by death or separation. If so, look to the one who is "the Prince of Peace."

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates, Brandon.

### Mexico and California to host 1990 Carter work project

Americus, Ga. — Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter will be joined by more than 2,000 American and Mexican volunteers during June 17-23, in a cooperative effort that will raise six to eight houses in San Diego, Calif., and up to 100 houses in Tijuana, Mexico.

This major building effort is the first Jimmy Carter Work Project to be held in a bi-national setting and is the most ambitious Jimmy Carter Work Project yet. The San Diego/Tijuana building blitz will play a central role in House-Raising Week Worldwide 1990, Habitat for Humanity's annual international building and consciousness-raising effort.

For more information contact Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat and Church Streets, Americus, Ga., 31709 or phone (912) 924-6935.



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## February's flower is the violet

By Lucille W. Bailey

I do not know who named the violet as the flower for February; however, I do know who made the violet, and since God made this beautiful flower, then he has a message for us when we see it.

I believe the first things God would want us to notice are the colors, such as blue, pink, purple, white, and multicolor. God did not make just one color, nor did he make just one color for people. He loves all people everywhere. If all the children are precious in the sight of Jesus, then all should be special in our sight.

The second thing that God would want us to know about violets would be their names. Some of the names are the dog violet, bird's foot violet, Confederate, and meadow. The reason that the dog violet got its name is that years ago dogs were despised. The dog violet does not have any odor. Now it isn't hard to find a Christian who does not witness for Jesus and that means they are not giving off the image of a Christian.

The bird's foot violet was so named because the leaves of the violet are shaped like the foot of a bird. Now that makes me think that if we say that we are a Christian we should both look and act like a Christian.

The Confederate violet came along

during a very difficult time in the life of the South, and we should be reminded that during any difficult time in our life we know that Jesus will help us.

I like the meadow violet best of all because it grows in a large area and does its best to shine where it is.

The third thing that God wants us to think about is the usefulness of the violet. First of all, it is an excellent source of Vitamin C. The violet can be used to make jelly, perfume, oils, salad, or candied, to decorate food with. In the days before we had doctors, violets were mixed with honey and boiled to make a poultice for swollen eyes. Now if God made the violet to be so useful, he certainly expects each of us to find a job for the cause of Christ and get to work on it. Jesus might want us to be in the Bible Drill or he might want us to invite others to come to Sunday School, church, RA, GA, and other organizations.

The fourth thing that God wants us to learn about the violet is that we should be thankful that he is with us always. The violet is Flower of the Month for February. Four states have named the violet as their state flower. God is everywhere and knows our every need. He is with us always not

just for one month out of the year or in four states out of 50.

Last, I think God would like us to know some unusual things about the violets. There are 40 wild varieties of this flower and 500 different kinds. The violet will grow worldwide. It has two stalks, one for the flower and one for the leaves. When you smell a violet, you have a temporary loss of smell. Just as the violet is unusual, we are the same way. No two fingerprints are alike and no two of us are alike. However, God loves us just as we are and wants us to love him, too.

Now if you want to know how much God loves you, then repeat John 3:16, and then thank God for the lovely violet and the lessons that he let the violet teach us.

There are flowers that are called violets and they are not violets. For instance, the African violet is not a violet. God has this reminder for us that all religions are not true religions and we need to be careful that we don't fall in a trap.

Here at State Line, our special violet is Mrs. Violet Lankford, a beautiful example of a violet made especially by God.

Mrs. Bailey lives at State Line.



## Pen Pal Club

Name: Brad Cavin  
Address: Route 1, Box 121  
Crosby, Mississippi 39633  
Age: 10  
Name of church: Union Baptist Church

Name: Dana Ferguson  
Address: Rt. 3, Box 124  
Magee, MS 39111  
Age: 12  
Church: Rocky Hill Baptist Church

## Most outstanding Royal Ambassador



Chris Stevens was voted most outstanding RA for 1989 at Short Creek Church, Iuka. Leonard Casalulla is pastor.

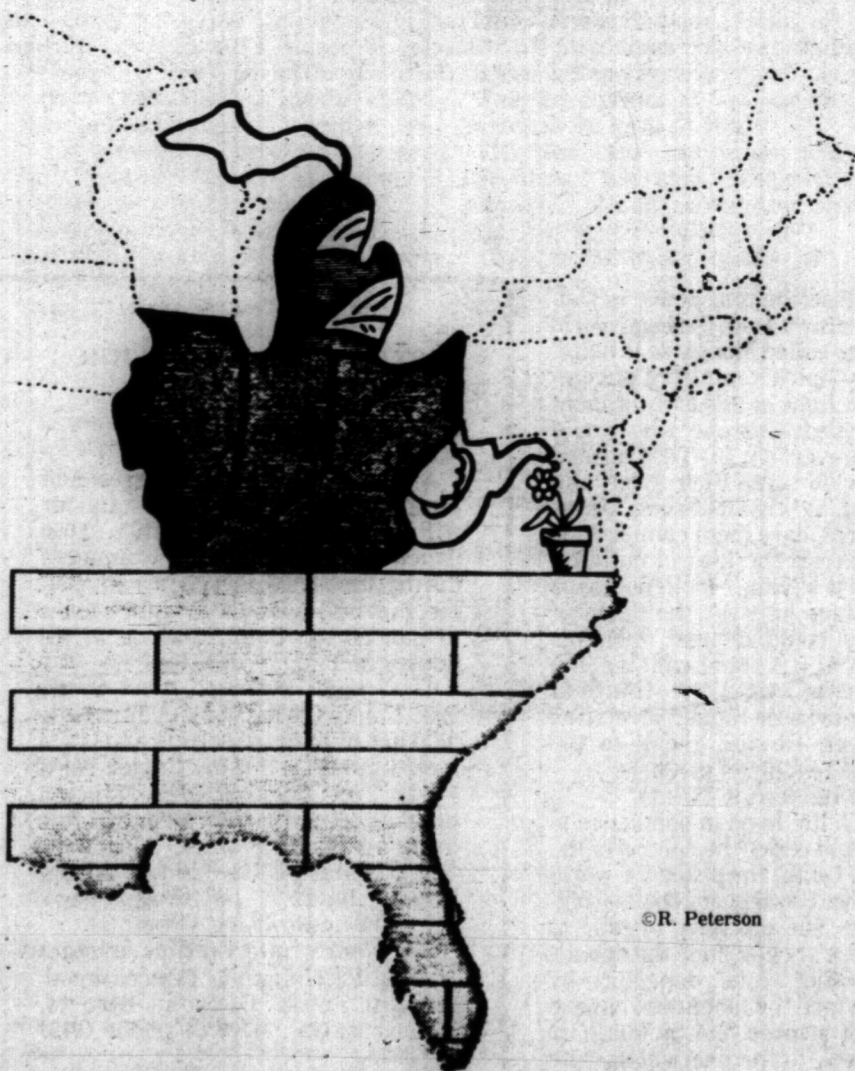
Stevens



Raisins are rich in nutrition, containing ten minerals of important food value, including iron and copper.

## GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers) Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



One group of states forms picture of a knight. Color the picture.



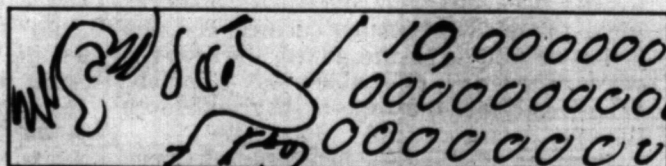
Please Don't Litter!



Bethel Church's (Poplarville) GA's, RA's, Acteens, Mission Friends, and High School Baptist Young Men are pictured with Dottie Williamson (far right) Pearl River Baptist Association's church planter



The world's largest desert is the Sahara with an area of 3,500,000 square miles.



The highest number with a name is the centillion, which is 10 with 600 zeroes.



In old Scotland it was believed if February 12-14th were stormy, there would be good weather the rest of the year.

Baptist Record

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February 22, 1990

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